MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE WOOD RIVER WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2003 FAIRFIELD, IDAHO

Chairman Daryle James called the meeting to order with the following in attendance: Carol Blackburn, Jo Lowe, Chuck Pentzer, Bill Davis, Bob Simpson, Stef Frenzl, David Ferguson, Larry Sturgeon, DEQ representatives Mike Etcheverry, Jennifer Claire and Secretary Dana Sturgeon.

Minutes for October 28, 2003 were reviewed. Bob made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Jo seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

The Board received notice that the Wood River WAG has been approved to receive $ 1,000.00 for administrative assistance for FY 04.

Jo asked Mike about the Glanbia application concerning non-cooling contact water. He said that they pre-treat their wastewater before they land apply.

Mike made a slide presentation of 319 non-point source projects and additional water quality improvement projects from 1999-2004. Highlights of the presentation are as follows:

Lake Walcott TMDL implementation 2003-4 Current Projects: 319 Non-Point Source Grant – H17/Snipe Drain TMDL Implementation Project for the Lake Walcott TMDL.

Project Sponsor: West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District. Public and agency support from Burley Irrigation District, City of Burley, Golf Course, Bureau of Reclamation, Idaho Soil Conservation Commission, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The original project was modified due to flow modification on the original proposed drain by the Burley Irrigation District.

A sediment basin was constructed on the lower edge of the Burley Golf Course near the Snake River. This basin catches the water from irrigation drains that flowed to the river through the golf course. This basin settles the sediment and attached phosphorus. Reeds, cattails and water grasses acting as a wetland help absorb the soluble phosphorus. Partial Irrigation for the golf course is supplied from this system. Overflow surplus water discharges to the Snake River after the pond treatment of the water. The city will clean the basin removing sediment and decaying vegetation in the off-season on a regular basis.

Future plans include installing a pump in this basin to pump the overflow water upstream to another large pond on the course. This would extend the irrigation potential and would decrease any discharge to the Snake River. Current deep irrigation well pumping would also be reduced on the golf course. This modification is planned to be addressed in a future project.

Grant Amount: $ 3,973 + Local Match $ 8,756 for a project total of $ 12,731.

Raft River TMDL: Raft River Riparian and Watershed Restoration Demonstration Project, 319 NPS Almo Riparian Restoration Project.

Sponsored by the East Cassia Soil Conservation District. Organizations and individuals involved in project, West Cassia SCWD, Raft River Flood District, Cassia County Commissioners, IASCD, Mini-

Cassia Criminal Justice Center, US Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Fish & Game, USEPA, Private Land Owners, USBLM, NRCS, IDEQ and IDWR.

The original project location was approximately 3 miles East of Almo, Idaho, and 7 miles East of the City of the Rocks National Reserve. A new Idaho State Park is now included in the treatment area.

The Purpose of the project was to stabilize the stream banks and restore the riparian wetland areas adjacent to the banks along segments of Edward Creek and Almo Creek, two of the larger tributaries of the Raft River. The Project has been expanded further up the creeks and now includes the Little Cove Creek area.

Best management practice (BMPs) treatments include Loose Rock, Drop Structures, Juniper Tree Revetments, Loose Rock Drop Structure, Loose Rock Crossings, Diversions and plantings.

Projected benefits of the project include reduction or eliminating flooding, reduction of erosion and the amount of sediment carried to the Raft River (303(d) listed), increased water quantity for irrigation and livestock as a result of stream bank storage, improved groundwater storage, and improve the habitat for fish, waterfowl and other wildlife.

Project Funding: Total cost of project $ 281,363. Original 319 NPS grant was $ 168,818 with a match of $ 112,545.

Big Wood River TMDL Implementation 2003-4 Current Projects:

Project Sponsor – Wood River Land Trust and the City of Hailey.

The Hailey Big Wood River Enhancement Project was designed to improve a 1 1/4–mile stretch of the Big Wood River as it flowed through the City of Hailey.

Main Objectives: To improve water quality in this part of the Big Wood River by reducing sediment and fines from entering the river system and to capture these elements once they have entered the river. To improve and restore aquatic and wildlife habitat by installing rock structure and planting vegetation that adds to the habitat diversity. To stabilize the riverbed by reducing the incising action of the river by slowing its flow through this section. To remove manmade material which hinders the river's ability to meander naturally and dissipate its energy during high flow times.

Budget Summary: River Plant Removal & Restoration - $ 100,454 grant and $ 159,251 match for a total of $ 259,705. Lion's Park Restoration - $ 94,187 grant and $ 94,187 match for a total of $ 94,187. Grant Total of $ 353,892.

Upper Snake Rock and Mid-Snake TMDLs Implementation:

The Twin Falls Canal Company has nearly 70 deep sediment removal ponds and constructed wetlands in the drain system. Two projects will remove sediment and nutrients from the Main Coulee and other drains flowing through Twin Falls and other areas. Two additional projects have been submitted for 2004. Monitoring results indicated an excellent reduction in sediments input to the Snake River. TP results are not as dynamic but will improve as wetlands are developed and placed in operation.

The Canal Company is working to clean-up one of their worse drain systems, the LQ/LS. This system drains to Pigeon Cove on the Snake River and receives irrigation water from 9220 acres. In conjunction with private landowners and others, a series of deep sediment ponds and wetlands are being constructed in the system. The Brennan Ponds was constructed in 1997. It is 5 acres deep with some wetlands

developing in areas. Below it are the Malone Ponds. The main pond is 7 acres and others bring the total to 17 acres. Plans are to make part of the system a wetlands.

The Main Perrine Coulee 319 Nonpoint Source Project:

The Perrine Coulee contains some perennial water, excess rainfall and irrigation flows to the Snake River. 27,540 acres are in compassed within the watershed. Many of the pollutants in the system contributing to the water quality problems are directly related to the runoff from agriculture areas.

The proposed sediment pond and wetland will be constructed on a 14-acre parcel of land. The site is situated where it will be easy to direct water from the Coulee and then back into the Coulee after settling. The south end of the pond will be cultivated to a wetland status. This project will reduce pollutants from 7,554 acres of the upper watershed.

The grant amount is $ 44,600; the local match is $ 32,000 for a total of $ 76,600.

The Jeff Woody Wetland 319 NPS Project:

The LQ and LS watersheds contain about 9,220 acres and discharges approximately 60 CFS combined during the irrigation season. The project size is 10 acres. The Snake River SWCD would use 319 funds to help purchase the property. The discharge from this system is considered one of the worse polluters to the Snake River from the Twin Falls canal irrigation system.

The grant would be $ 61,600 with a local match of $ 45,000 for a total of $ 106,600.

Cedar Draw/F Coulee Nonpoint Source Project:

The project calls for construction of a large sediment pond and wetland area, also inlet structure and gully and stream stabilization. The combination of in-stream and gully work and land treatment to on-site sources, should keep an estimated 2,000 tons of erosional sediment out of Cedar Draw each year. The project area covers roughly 15-20 acres.

Grant funds are $ 22,000; local match is $ 30,000 for a total of $ 52,000.

Kinsey Corral Relocation Fence Implementation 319 NPS Project:

The Twin Falls SWCD have matched 319 funds with local and state resources to restore beneficial uses in the Rock Creek watershed.

This project will apply riparian BMPs to address water quality concerns on one Animal Feeding Operation on McMullen Creek, a tributary to Rock Creek. BMPs to be installed include livestock exclusion fencing and with riparian restoration on McMullen Creek, off-stream water developments, installation of sprinkler irrigation systems and removing corral facilities from live water and water storage facilities. Critical area planting along with proper grazing management and use are part of the project.

The project was approved in 2001 but delays have resulted in a 319-grant extension to 2004 with major work to be completed the fall of 2003 and spring of 2004.

Summary on the project costs were grant $ 37,979, equipment cost $ 44,357, local cost $ 41,585, WQPA cost $ 18,487 for a total of $ 141,308.

Wilson Creek/Kueny Pond – Submitted to EPA for approval for 2004:

Plans are to construct a large pond (5 acres), wetland, along with riparian construction on the Kueny property on Wilson Creek. Wilson Creek is a tributary of Mud Creek. The project area covers roughly 4,500 acres within the watershed.

Grant funds are $ 35,000 with local match of $ 23,000 for a total of $ 58,000.

Rock Creek Rehabilitation Project:

The main focus of the project work was retention of existing wetlands and re-vegetation with native vegetation. Most of the concrete slabs were removed eliminating their potential run-off. Several of the concrete slabs were buried at the site for subsurface support. All direct run-offs to the Creek were eliminated by creating buffer and filter strips and the elimination of the negative elements at the site causing the problems.

Project costs were grant funds $ 87,572, local match $ 60,048 for a total of $ 147,620. State of Idaho Grant for additional work was $ 319,693 for a grand total of $ 467,313.

This 319 NPS grant supported efforts to remove areas that were potential sources of sediment to Rock Creek and restore riparian system to the park. ($147,620)

The State of Idaho Grant supported the installation of restrooms, covered eating areas and the installation of an RV park for general public use. The main focus of the RV Park will be for the use of long-term patient's families that are in the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. ($319,693) Funds from both projects were used for general items such as tree planting. The local Arbon Society will also be adding plants along the edges of the Stream bank for stabilization. Volunteer help has been used from the Juvenile Detention Center in Twin Falls for site construction and cleanup.

Twin Falls Area Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project:

The purpose of the project is restoration of a degraded aquatic ecosystem structure, function and dynamic process to a less degraded, more natural condition. The primary goal is to promote sustainable use of Perrine Coulee and Rock Creek by improving its riparian and wetland function while allowing for recreational opportunities. Improving riparian and wetland functions will improve water quality, contribute toward meeting TMDL standards for nonpoint sources and benefit the Snake River ecosystem, including resident endangered species.

An addition to this project may result due to the Twin Falls City's purchase of the Auger Falls property in the Snake River Canyon. This property comprises approximately 600 acres and cost over $1,000,000 for the city to acquire. It is located east (100 acres) and west (500 acres) of the confluence of Rock Creek and the Snake River. The property is located on the south side of the Snake River and downstream of the Twin Falls City Waste Treatment facility. Plans are to improve existing wetlands, place constructed wetlands on the property and create crop uptake basins for wildlife.

Estimated total project cost $ 2,926,000.

Northside Canal Company J-Eight Irrigation Drain Feeding F&G Constructed Wetlands:

J-8 Drain consists of 6 ponds. The ponds cover 40 acres. Three ponds are deep sediment and three are wetlands. On the F&G property several wetlands exist. This drain treats water from 20,000 irrigated acres. The cost of construction was $ 195,000. Yearly maintenance cost: $5,000

Of the 12 sample events in 2002 discharge to the Snake River occurred 3 times. Long-range plans call for only enough discharge to the wetlands to maintain the wildlife habitat on the F&G reserve.

Mike had many before and after pictures of these projects. The presentation was excellent and showed the results of many interested and concerned citizens and agencies working together to accomplish common goals.

David Ferguson, Range/Riparian Program Specialist with the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission distributed a handout on the Fish and Dry Creeks of Blaine County featuring the physical characterization of riparian area. This assessment occurred on March 20, 2003. Photos featured were from various areas at Dry Creek and Fish Creek. The objective of a map of the area is to describe, in general, how present grazing is impacting the existing riparian areas.

David also passed out a physical characterization of the Big Wood River 303(D) listed stream segments of concerns (pertaining to those private land stream segments receiving load allocations within the Big Wood River Watershed Management Plan). Rock Creek, Croy Creek, Cove Creek, Quigley Creek, Seamans Creek and Big Wood River. Typical conservation measures for Riparian area were conducted for sediment-total suspended solids and substrates, bacteria, temperature and nutrients-total phosphorus. He would like to do a future presentation to show what can be done in riparian areas.

The following executive board elections were held:

Recreation/Tourism – Bob made the motion to nominate Daryle James. Carol seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.
Logging/Timber – Bob made the motion to nominate Bryan Ravenscroft with Clint Krahn as alternate. Carol seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.
Small Business/Industry – Carol made the motion to nominate Kent Scott with Dennis Koyle as alternate. Bob seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.
Flood Control – Jo made the motion to nominate Lynn Harmon. Bob seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.
Confined Animal Feeding – Carol made the motion to nominate Bill Davis. Bob seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.
Hydropower – Bob made the motion to nominate Vernon Ravenscroft with Jack Straubhar as alternate. Carol seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.
Land Planning/Local Government – Jo made the motion to nominate Jerry Nance with Scott Boettger as alternate. Carol seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.
Environmental/Preservation – Carol made the motion to nominate Jo Lowe. Bob seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

These terms will expire in November 2005.

The next meeting will be held in Carey at 7:00 P.M. on January 27, 2004. The meeting for February was set for the 24th at 7:00 P.M. in Fairfield.

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Daryle James
Chairman